GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:75
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2005
FOODGRAINS FOR POOR FAMILIES
Barman Shri Ranen;Baxla Shri Joachim

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to assess the total number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in West Bengal, Delhi and North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the rate at which foodgrains are being provided to the said families;

(e) whether the Government has taken any effective steps to further reduce the prices of foodgrains being provided to these families; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) to (c): At the beginning of each Five Year Plan, the Ministry of Rural Development through State Governments conducts a Below Poverty Line (BPL) Census in all the States/UTs except Delhi and Chandigarh with a view to identify households living below the poverty line who could be assisted under various anti-poverty programmes implemented by the Ministry. For 10th Five Year Plan the Ministry has issued detailed guidelines to conduct the BPL Census 2002. However, in the meantime Peoples Union for Civil Liberties, New Delhi filed a civil writ petition No. 196/2001 in the Hon`ble Supreme Court. The Hon`ble Supreme Court in its order dated 5th May, 2003 directed the Union of India not to insist the State Governments to remove any person from the existing BPL list. Thus, the results of BPL Census, 2002 have not been finalized by any of the State Governments/UTs. Regarding Delhi, no such survey was conducted of BPL families. However the Food and Supply Department of the Government of NCT of Delhi had conducted a survey for AAY beneficiaries.

(d): The present Central Issue Price (CIP) of Rice and Wheat being allocated for BPL families under the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is Rs. 565/- per Quintal and Rs. 415/- per Quintal respectively since 1.7.2002. The Retail Issue Prices of the foodgrains for distribution through the Fair Price Shops, are fixed by respective State Governments, which vary from State to State.

(e) & (f): At present, no such proposal is under consideration of the Government.